

**To:** Mears, Mary[Mears.Mary@epa.gov]; Martin, John[Martin.JohnJ@epa.gov]; Rodriguez, Elias[Rodriguez.Elias@epa.gov]; Cote, Mel[Cote.Mel@epa.gov]; Hamjian, Lynne[Hamjian.Lynne@epa.gov]; Perkins, Stephen[Perkins.Stephen@epa.gov]; Bender, Emily[Bender.Emily@epa.gov]; Gutro, Doug[Gutro.Doug@epa.gov]; Brown, Rudy[Brown.Rudy@epa.gov]  
**From:** Deegan, Dave  
**Sent:** Tue 11/15/2016 7:12:05 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Approval of sludge dumping in LI Sound off Fishers Island

FYI on response sent to reporter.

Dave

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Dave Deegan

U.S. EPA, New England Regional Office

Media Relations | Social Media | Web Content

phone: 617.918.1017 | mobile: 617.594.7068

email: [deegan.dave@epa.gov](mailto:deegan.dave@epa.gov)



**From:** Deegan, Dave  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 2:11 PM  
**To:** donna@tbrnewspapers.com  
**Cc:** Deegan, Dave <Deegan.Dave@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Approval of sludge dumping in LI Sound off Fishers Island

Hi Donna,

My colleague John Martin in EPA Region 2 forwarded your inquiry to me. Below is a statement you are welcome to use. Please attribute to US EPA or to US EPA Region 1.

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EPA is absolutely committed to the shared goal of reducing or eliminating dredged material disposal in the open waters of Long Island Sound.

Our recent decision to establish the Eastern Long Island Sound Disposal Site (ELDS) is based on sound science, reflects extensive public input, and balances the need for dredging to maintain safe navigation, while also protecting the beauty and vitality of Long Island Sound. In our designation for the ELDS, EPA incorporated site protections and use restrictions that are similar to what were established for the Central and Western Long Island Sound Dredged Material Disposal Sites earlier in 2016.

Our decisions to establish all three Long Island Sound disposal sites includes mechanisms to develop and promote the use of practicable alternatives to open-water disposal of dredged material. This includes identifying ways to use fine-grained sediments like silt and clay beneficially (for example, potentially to bolster wetlands in low-lying areas where rising sea levels are likely to become an issue), or to use sandy sediment to bolster beaches.

For many years, EPA has worked closely with officials from NY, CT and the US Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that open water disposal of dredged sediment only occurs as a last resort, and that beneficial alternative uses for dredged sediment are used whenever practicable. This process was first captured in the Army Corps' "Dredged Material Management Plan" which was created due to an EPA requirement in a 2005 conditional approval for site use.

EPA intends to continue working closely with the states and the Army Corps to establish a standing, interagency Steering Committee and Regional Dredging Team for Long Island Sound, which is required under the rule just issued. Under these entities, federal and state agency representatives will work together to identify, develop, and promote alternative uses for dredged sediment; and will review dredging projects and offer recommendations to Army Corps and private dredging entities regarding how the dredged material from such projects should be handled.

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Thanks and best regards,

Dave

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Dave Deegan

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**From:** Martin, John  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2016 10:05 AM  
**To:** Deegan, Dave <[Deegan.Dave@epa.gov](mailto:Deegan.Dave@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Mears, Mary <[Mears.Mary@epa.gov](mailto:Mears.Mary@epa.gov)>; Rodriguez, Elias <[Rodriguez.Elias@epa.gov](mailto:Rodriguez.Elias@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Approval of sludge dumping in LI Sound off Fishers Island

Hi Dave - please see below. LIS dredging question.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Donna Newman <[donna@tbrnewspapers.com](mailto:donna@tbrnewspapers.com)>  
**Date:** November 15, 2016 at 9:51:51 AM EST  
**To:** John Martin <[martin.johnj@epa.gov](mailto:martin.johnj@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** **Approval of sludge dumping in LI Sound off Fishers Island**

Good morning, John.

The 2005 accord between the EPA and the governors of New York and Connecticut to reduce or limit the disposal of dredged material in the LI Sound was intended to spur the EPA to examine alternate placement practices.

Now, 11 years later, the EPA has approved a new dump site. While it is in Connecticut coastal waters, it will effect the entirety of LI Sound.

Why hasn't the EPA used the time to develop a new plan for disposing of dredge spoils?

It would be nice to get some actual information as to why this new dumpsite was approved, rather than the usual platitudes.

Can you supply any rationale for the EPA taking this backward step at this time?

Thank you for a prompt response.

My deadline is Wednesday at 10 AM.

(This article will be shared in all six Times Beacon Record Newspapers this week.)

Best,

Donna

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**Donna Newman** - [@ByDonnaNewman](#)

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